



U.S. Embassy, Lusaka



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President George W. Bush and Laura Bush Return to Zambia



In December, President George W. Bush and Laura Bush visited Zambia to launch the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon (PRRR) initiative, a public and private partnership to combat cervical and breast cancer -- two of the leading

causes of cancer in women. In July, the former President and First Lady returned to Zambia to lead a group of volunteers to renovate a rural health center to be used for cervical cancer screening.

refurbish the Ngungu clinic in Kabwe.

With some expert guidance from local American resident Timothy Keller (pictured in center photograph), the team reroofed, repainted, rewired, landscaped, and equipped the clinic with the capability to screen patients for cervical cancer.

The president said upon return to the U.S., “It doesn’t matter what your status in life is, you’re never too proud to handle a paint brush.” The team transformed the clinic breaking only



President and Mrs. Bush donned blue jeans and baseball caps and joined volunteers from the Bush Institute, the U.S. Embassy, local American residents, and Zambian community leaders to

for a 30-minute lunch of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches — creamy is the president’s preference, for those wondering.

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President George W. Bush and Laura Bush Return to Zambia

Amidst the hard work, there were many moments of levity - the president touted the health benefits of peanut butter to a skeptical group of Zambian teenagers, and Mrs. Bush met with a young mother who had just given birth to a healthy girl in a residence near the clinic, and named the child Laura.

Following the clinic's reopening, health workers at the renovated clinic screened 40 women on the first day and more than 100 by the end of the week. Female patients whose screenings revealed any abnormalities were able to receive immediate cryotherapy treatment at the clinic. The women praised the team's efforts, saying they made a measurable and significant difference.

The embassy co-hosted a casual breakfast with 15 Americans from Kabwe and surrounding areas. George W. Bush and Laura Bush expressed interest in the lives



Ambassador Storella, President and Mrs. Bush join Ngungu Clinic staff for the re-opening ceremony in Kabwe.

and activities of local U.S. citizen residents and offered their thoughts about their trip to Zambia and their goals.

The president remarked, "To whom much is given, much is required" in response to the United States' leadership in global health assistance and establishment of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

He lamented that many women survive AIDS through antiretroviral treatment only to die from cervical cancer. He praised the Pink Ribbon Red



Resident U.S. citizen families welcomed President and Mrs. Bush for Sunday prayer at Grace church in Kabwe.

Ribbon initiative to help raise awareness and spur partnerships to fight these deadly but treatable diseases. American guests thanked former President and Mrs. Bush for efforts that energized a small rural corner of Zambia with a spirit of volunteerism.

Special Advisor for Children's Issues Visits Lusaka

Advocates for American citizen children

The U.S. Embassy welcomed Ambassador Susan Jacobs, Special Advisor for Children's Issues, to Lusaka June 7-9. Ambassador Jacobs visited to assess and advance Zambia's accession to the Hague Convention on Adoptions and Abductions.

In meetings with ministers and permanent secretaries, members of parliament, social workers, orphanage representatives, civil society organizations, and in a televised interview, Ambassador Jacobs promoted



Ambassador Susan Jacobs discusses Hague implementation with female leaders from the Zambian government and civil society.



At the Kasisi Children's Home in Lusaka, Ambassador Jacobs visited orphanage children.

Hague implementation to provide safeguards designed to

protect the interests of the child, the child's birth family, and the adoptive family.

Adoptions from Hague

Convention signatories must be completed with assistance of an approved Adoption Service Provider and are often subject to more robust regulations and oversight. During her visit, Ambassador Jacobs commended the Zambian government's step-by-step approach to facilitate implementation of international standards.

U.S. Embassy Meets with U.S. Citizens in Kabwe

We realize that a trip to the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka is not always a convenient or easy trip to make and so the consular staff tries to meet with U.S. citizens whenever possible outside of Lusaka. We really enjoy getting to know you, answering questions about

consular services, and learning what we can do better. In June, new Consul Rob Romanowski and American Citizen Services Assistant Beatrice Mfula met with Kabwe-area Americans. We would like to thank our hosts Paul and Ann Rachel Hamelryck for opening their

home to us. If you think your area would be well served by a visit by consular staff, please let us know, and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Wardens Recognized at July 4th Reception

In recognition of volunteer wardens' service in support of U.S. citizens, the U.S. Embassy invited wardens to attend the celebration of the 236th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America which we celebrated on June 16.

Mission staff organized a mini -county fair for guests, replete with displays of Americana including line-dancing, BB gun marksmanship, and tug-of-war competitions. While there were unfortunately no fireworks, the Consul enjoyed some refreshing moments

inside the dunk tank. The Embassy extends appreciation to the consular wardens who offer their invaluable support year around.



US Embassy Mission staff pose for the July 4th commemorative invitation to

Frequently Asked Questions About Voting

Can I vote absentee?

You can vote absentee in any election for federal office if you are a U.S. citizen 18 years or older and are a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States.

If I do not maintain a legal residence in the U.S., what is my "legal state of residence?"

Your "legal State of residence" for voting purposes is the state or territory where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This applies to overseas citizens even though you may not have property or other ties in your last state of residence and your intent to return to that state may be uncertain.

When completing block 7 of the [Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request](#) form, be sure to enter the entire mailing address of your last residence, including rural route and number. That address determines your proper voting jurisdiction.

Some states allow children of U.S. citizens residing overseas who are U.S. citizens but who have never

resided in the U.S., to claim one of their parent's legal state of residence as their own. The list of states that allow this are listed on <http://www.fvap.gov>.

How do I register to vote, or apply for an absentee ballot?

You may register and request an absentee ballot with a single form: the Federal Post Card Application. This application form is accepted by all states and territories and is postage-paid in the U.S. mail, including the Military Postal System and State Department Pouch mail. Hard copies of the form can be obtained from a U.S. embassy or consulate or requested directly from the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

An [online version](#) of the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form is also available at <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf>. The online version of the form must be mailed in an envelope with proper postage, or mailed using our prepaid return envelope.

Your Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form must be completed, printed, signed, dated and [mailed directly to your local election official](#).

Can I register or vote in-person at the embassy or consulate?

There are no provisions for in-person voting or on-site registration at U.S. embassies or consulates. U.S. embassy and consular officials can assist U.S. citizens in completing the Voter Registration/Absentee Ballot Request form or other election materials for their state, witness election materials (if required), and provide other absentee voting information.

You may mail election materials from U.S. embassies and consulates. Remember to make sure that all election material is postmarked.

Rob Romanowski is your local Voting Assistance Officer. If you have questions, you may email him at acslusaka@state.gov.

New Consul Assumes Role

At the end of June, Kate McGeary departed Zambia after a three-year tour. During her period as Consul, she helped advance many important issues in Zambia including protection against trafficking- in-persons, and consular notification and access. Kate's ability to pursue issues that were not pure consular functions was

notable and effective.

Replacing Kate will be Vice-Consul Rob Romanowski. He previously served in Cambodia and will reside in Zambia with his wife and two sons until 2014. Prior to the Foreign Service Rob served as a Captain in the U.S. Army. The new Vice-Consul will arrive in September.



Rob Romanowski replaces Kate McGeary as U.S. Embassy Consul.

A Note from the new Consul

With the recent change in office leadership, we are reflecting and evaluating what the consular section can do better to improve our work. The consular section has many duties in Zambia but the most important service and our highest priority is to assist Americans abroad. I solicit your input about how we could improve our services.

We will work to implement any changes that are feasible. In some matters, we are unfortunately constrained by policies but we try to be reasonable at all times. For example, we are mandated by the State Department to have an appointment system but we also never turn away a citizen who has an emergency.

Looking ahead, the consular section aims to engage more with the American community, and find more ways Americans can be involved in Embassy activities. This goal is evident in the special meeting between President Bush with Kabwe Americans. Also, as U.S. national elections near, we hope to visit outside Lusaka to advise and assist in voter registration in your area.

To commend your assistance to the Embassy and to recruit future wardens, we are also planning a reception in Lusaka for volunteer wardens. We welcome your input and ideas and look forward to hearing your thoughts and impressions of our consular services and performance. Please send me a

note at RomanowskiRA@state.gov. All the best and happy belated 4th of July. — Rob

P.S. Additional photos of the President's Kabwe visit can be found at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassyzambia/sets/72157630881911014/>

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